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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Attorney Docket No. AAO-261

In re the U.S. Nationalization Application

Int'l Application No. PCT/JP01/04976 of

Kanji KUROME et al.

Serial No. to be assigned

Group Art Unit:

Filed: Concurrently herewith

Examiner:

Title: **DIALYSIS LIQUID PREPARING APPARATUS**

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to the initial examination, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE ABSTRACT:

Please amend the Abstract as follows:

-- An apparatus for preparing dialysis liquid includes a container holder 112 for holding an inverted container 102, the container having a tubular body portion which accommodates a powder preparation, a bottom wall, and a sealing member for closing an outlet opening defined at the end of the tubular body portion opposite to the bottom wall. The apparatus also includes a movable cutter 118 for cutting the sealing member, a mesh member 116, horizontally disposed above the tank, for receiving the powder preparation from the container 102, and a nozzle 120 for applying water to the powder preparation which has fallen on the mesh member after the sealing member is cut by the cutter 118. The water and powder are received in a concentrated liquid tank

AAO-261

PATENT APPLICATION

114a provided under the container holder 112, and the concentrated liquid is diluted with a diluting water as it is supplied to the dialyzer 160.--

REMARKS

This Preliminary Amendment is requested prior to the initial examination of the above-identified patent application to make number of words in the Abstract less than 150. Additionally, in accordance with 37 CFR 1.121(c)(1), amended Abstract and claims are set forth in a marked-up version in the pages attached to this Amendment. If the Examiner has any suggestions for placing this application in even better form, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned and the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: February 11, 2002

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